From: Wayne Hedrick
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 9:52pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The Microsoft court case is one of the biggest money wasters in US
Government history. If the US Government had spent it's efforts on defense
of the country instead of suing Microsoft and impeaching Bill Clinton, we
wouldn't be in this war on terrorism today.

The reason why Microsoft is so strong is simple. Their products work.
Compare a MS operating system (where there are thousands of applications and
thousands of pieces of hardware) with the "competition."

       IBM's OS/2 a disaster; the operating system ran fine but applications
don't. Call the IT department at American Express and ask them.
       Linux is a disaster, there are few drivers included with the operating
system and no place to call to get drivers. Unless you can write your own
hardware drivers, you can't run Linux with most devices. (They call that
the beauty of "Open Source"...it should be called "No Source.") Buy a
digital camera and try to run it on Linux.
       Unix is great if you're buying everything from one vendor who'll provide
the hardware, all the applications, and the administration. But, you can't
buy anything else to run on that system. And, it's very, very expensive.
Try that digital camera on Unix...
       Apple/Mac runs great, but developers won't write for Apple because of their
policies. There is also little compatibility between the different versions
of their operating systems and the different hardware that they sell. And,
on a related point, Apple is a total monopoly. Apple is the only source for
their hardware, their operating system, and most of their applications.
Other companies cannot compete at all. Try to buy an "iMac compatible"
computer.
       Novell 3.x and 4.x was good at file/printer sharing, but that was about it.
Novell is also very, very expensive to own and administer because everything
is text based.
       Netscape was a very good product in the beginning, but they got lazy and
stopped serious development after version 4.x. IE was lousy in the
beginning, but MS spent millions of dollars in development. IE is superb
now and has been since version 4.x

So, MS writes a great operating system, integrates great utilities into the
system, sells tools to write any application, develops the largest
knowledgebase in the world about their products, and they become dominant.
If Apple had done the same thing, I'd be working on Apple's.

At any time, the computer industry can change. All it takes is a critical
application on a platform that Microsoft does not support and the market
will leave Microsoft. Look at how well Palm took off.

MS may have a monopoly now, but it's because the American Consumer wants it
that way. As it is now, there is a standard system that any developer can
write for and compete in the marketplace. That standard is a PC with
Microsoft Windows. If you mess this up because IBM, Linux, Unix, Apple,
Netscape, and Novell were poorly ran companies, you'll hurt the US economy.

Stay out of the market. Let the consumer choose.

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